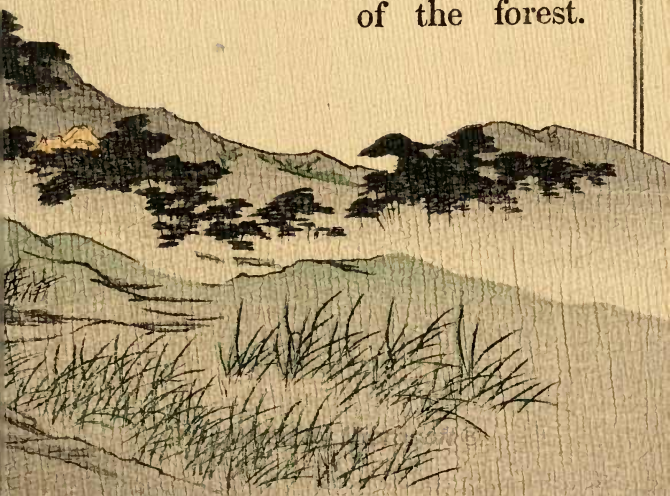
Digitized by Microsoft ®

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Published by T. HASEGAWA, 17 Kami Negishi,
TOKYO.

The Enchanted Waterfall.

ONCE upon a time, there lived alone with his father and mother a simple young wood-cutter. He worked hard all day on the lonely hill side, or among the shady trees of the forest.



But, work as hard as he might, he was still very poor, and could bring home but little money to his old father and mother. This grieved him very much, for he was an affectionate and dutiful son.

For himself he had but few wants and was easily pleased. His mother too was always cheerful and contented. The old father, however, was of a selfish disposition, and often grumbled at the poor supper of rice, washed down with weak tea, or, if times were very bad, with a cup of hot water. "If we had but a little saké,

Digitized by Microsoft ©

now," he would say, "it would warm one up, and do one's heart good." And then he would reproach the simple young fellow, vowing that in his young days he had always been able to afford a cup of saké for himself and his friends.

Digitized by Microsoft®

Grieved at heart the young man would work harder than ever and think to himself: "How shall I earn some more money? how shall I get a little saké for my

Digitized by Microsoft®

poor old father, who really needs it in his weakness and old age?"

He was thinking in this way to himself one day as he was at work on the wooded hills, when the sound of rushing water caught his ear. He had often worked in the same spot before, and could not remember that there was any torrent or waterfall near. So, feeling rather surprised, he followed the sound, which got louder and louder until at last he came upon a beautiful little cascade.

The water looked so clear and cool that he stooped down where it

Digitized by Microsoft®

Digitized by Microsoft®

was flowing away in a quiet stream, and using his hand as a cup, drank a little of it. What was his amazement to find that instead of water it was the most excellent saké!

Overjoyed at this discovery, he quickly filled the gourd which was hanging at his girdle, and made the best of his way home, rejoicing that now at last he had something good to bring back to his poor old father. The old man was so delighted with the saké that he drank cup after cup. A neighbour happening to drop in, the story was told to him, and a cup of saké

Digitized by Microsoft®

offered and drunk with many words of astonishment and gratitude.

Soon the news spread through the village, and before night there was hardly a man in the

place, who had not paid his visit of curiosity, been told the tale of the magic fountain, and smelt the gourd, which alas! was now empty.

Next morning the young wood-cutter set off to work earlier even

Digitized by Microsoft ®

than usual, not forgetting to carry with him a large gourd, for of course the enchanted waterfall

Digitized by Microsoft®

was to be visited again. What was the surprise of the young man when he came to the spot, to find several of his neighbours already there, and all armed with buckets, jars, pitchers; anything that would carry a good supply of the coveted saké. Each man had come secretly, believing that he alone had found his way to the magic waterfall.

The young wood-cutter was amused to see the looks of disappointment and anger upon the faces of those who already stood near the water, as they saw fresh arrivals every moment. Each one

Digitized by Microsoft®

looked abashed and uncomfortable in the presence of his neighbours; but, at last one bolder than the others broke the grim silence with a laugh, which soon the others were fain to join in.

"Here we are," said he, "all bent on the same errand. Let us fill our jars and gourds and go home. But first—just one taste of the magic saké." He stooped down, and filling his gourd, put it to his lips. Once and yet again did he drink with a face of astonishment which soon gave place to anger.

"Water!" he shouted in a rage, "Nothing but cold water! we have been tricked and deceived by a parcel of made up stories—where is that young fellow? Let us duck him in his fine waterfall!"

But the young man had been wise enough to slip behind a big rock when he saw the turn things were taking, and was nowhere to be found. First one and then another tasted of the stream. It was but too true; no saké, but clear cold water was there. Crestfallen and out of temper, the covetous band returned to their homes.

When they were fairly gone the good young wood-cutter crept from his hiding place.

Digitized by Internet Archive

"Could this be true," he thought, "or was it all a dream?" "At any rate," said he, "I must taste once more for myself." He filled the gourd and drank. Sure enough, there was the same fine flavoured saké he had tasted yesterday. And so it remained. To the good dutiful son the cascade flowed with the finest saké, while to all others it yielded only cold water.

The Emperor hearing this wonderful story, sent for the good young wood-cutter, rewarded him for his kindness to his father, and even changed the name of the

year in his honour, as an encouragement to children in all future time to honour and obey their parents.

Digitized by Microsoft®

著作權登錄不許複製

日本昔噺第二十號

養老の瀧

明治二十五年十二月廿五日　印刷
同　廿八日　發行

譯者　デエームス夫人

發行者　長谷川武次郎
東京市下谷區上根岸町十七番地

印刷者　柴田喜一
同　京橋區弓町十五番地

Digitized by Microsoft®

JAPANESE FAIRY TALE SERIES.

1. Momotaro or Little Peachling.
2. The Tongue Cut Sparrow.
3. The Battle of the Monkey and the Crab.
4. The Old Man who made the Dead Trees Blossom.
5. Kachi-Kachi Mountain.
6. The Mouses' Wedding.
7. The Old Man and the Devils.
8. Urashima, the Fisher-boy.
9. The Eight-Headed Serpent.
10. The Matsuyama Mirror.
11. The Hare of Inaba.
12. The Cub's Triumph.
13. The Silly Jelly-Fish.
14. The Princes Fire-Flash and Fire-Fade
15. My Lord Rag-o'-Rice.
16. The Wonderful Tea-Kettle.
17. Schippeitaro.
18. The Ogre's Arm.
19. The Ogres of Oyeyama.
20. The Enchanted Waterfall.

2nd Series No. 1. The Goblin-Spider.
" " " 2. The Wonderful Mallet.
" " " 3. The Broken Images.

Digitized by Microsoft®

Digitized by Microsoft®